



HOWARD COUNTY CEMETERY PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

3430 Court House Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Administered by the Department of Planning and Zoning

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May 2016 Minutes

Tuesday, May 10, 2016; 10:00 -11:30 a.m.

The quarterly meeting of the Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, Maryland.

Members Present: Fred Dorsey, Liz Larney, Chip Plitt, David Zinner, Mike Bennett,

Members Absent: Lee Preston, Dottie Moore, Matthew Smithson

Staff Present: Beth Burgess, Ken Short, Yvette Zhou

Public: Edward Glawe

Approval of April's minutes: Ms. Burgess is working on them.

General Topics

- Board Updates:
 - Intro of Board: Self introductions for new DPZ staff.
- Reports
 - Budget update. None to report; still requesting \$4,000 for cemetery restoration grants. Mr. Zinner suggested asking the Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites as we are still seeking a non-profit to receive funding for distribution
- Oella Cemetery Clean up :

Mr. Smithson attended Oella cemetery clean up on May 7, 2016 in Baltimore County. Before and after photos were shown to Board. There were about thirty people that volunteered for the clean-up but only about a third of the cemetery area was completed as it is a large cemetery site that hasn't been maintained for year. A lists of do/don't of best practices were exchanged amongst the volunteers supplied by CPAB. A fall clean-up will be scheduled to continue the effort.
- Community Education/Outreach:

Mr. Zinner had several suggestions. Geo-caching around cemetery sites seeking and learning history from clues. He will create a geocaching scavenger hunt concept to present. CPAB discussed ideas like: a summer passport idea. Wegmans could be a sponsor (if allowed) and historical cemetery passports could be distributed. A bike-about where kids have to answer questions could be an educational and fun outing. Prizes or rewards at the end could be available, a puzzle that leads you to the Howard County fair in August for a free ticket admission as price for completing the hunt was suggested. Maryland Historical Society should be a resource and support. Mr. Bennett advised importance of identify which cemeteries to be selected for this

event as some are better maintained than others. Also, the coordination of geographic location for participant's accessibility whether driving or biking. All agreed a partnership with Genealogy Society and Preservation Coalition is a good way to identify resources and get local businesses to donate prizes in attracting participants.

- Rosa Bonheur

Ms. Larney researched parcels from the 1917 old subdivision plat and found current owner is Memorial LLC. There were no other contact details in SDAT about Memorial LLC only the authorized person being Charles Lagasse, Lawyer, in Owings Mills. No cemeteries were on tax records; only land records show where the burials are. It is still unclear how the developer is planning on the only entrance and amenity space to be on cemetery property in the only wooded section of this site. Ms. Burgess spoke with Ms. Warden with Rosa Bonheur Society. Ms. Warden is requesting a meeting with County Executive and Dr. Ball to share her views about the adjacent development and its impact on the cemetery property. The current proposed plan shows the majority of the cemetery undeveloped but if the route 1 access is limited in the future, then the cemetery will become land locked without road access. The current plan shows access from Dorsey Road being eliminated due to the main entrance for the housing and the hedge and fence separating the parcels. Mr. Zinner asked if cemetery can be preserved as an open place with the development so that it is protected in the future. Mr. Pitt advised the property needs to be studied by a civil engineer and planner and for a plan to be submitted to the County as a first step.

- HPC updates:

Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church: An update about the bathroom being located over graves already noted as having been asphalted over by the parking lot. Charles Dorsey, a representative of the church, attended the Historic Preservation Commission meeting last week where he showed a photo from 1946 of the Cooksville School that was at the location of the proposed addition with the paved parking lot. The elders at the church (to the best of their knowledge) stated there was only one cemetery located far on the south side of the property near Route 97 and there was never graves where they were rumored to be under the parking. Ms. Moore who went to school there is researching concern as well.

- HOA – deeded cemeteries

Mr. Dorsey is trying to assist HOAs that are deeded with the responsibilities of a cemetery, historic ruins or structures that are liabilities to the group and also expensive to maintain. There are only two HOAs currently as models then take on more as they come up. Although most developers will demolish the ruins prior to development, those that were left are HOA responsibility to maintain. Ms. Burgess noted HPC Member, Bruno Reich looking to purchase Squirrel Hill as an example of preservation in a subdivision. Mr. Reich was not at last week's HPC meeting to share further insights.

Additional Items:

- John Day Burial Grounds 3741 Old Columbia Pike.

A concerned citizen emailed Ms. Burgess about the purchase potential of the property for development since it is listed as tax exempt. Ms. Larney shared the owner was Fiber Inc. and from 1996 till 2011 the property was conveyed to Doris Burgess, the surviving wife. Ms. Larney researched the deed which has conveyance issues over the years; there is something not right about the deed in its accounts and filed articles. Potential cost to research the property could be \$5,000-\$10,000 of. Green Cross garage LLC is the current owner. Ms. Larney's Mom's friend mentioned it was sited as the "old Civil War cemetery". Mr. Short noted in Civil war years, soldiers were buried coming through B&O railroad, and the land owner donated the land for burial. Mr. Glawe offered to create a mosaic survey with color coding of property boundary. Mr. Bennett asked where to search for transit soldier who were buried there. Mr. Short said army of records. Further research is needed by the Board. Ms. Burgess can share findings with the concerned citizen and potential purchaser that a tax sale is not an option, that the parcel should not be considered an adverse

possession and that there is verbal confirmation that this was a civil war burial and that an interested party should confirm that the areas where burials are not located.

- Turf Valley Property

Mr. Short stated there was a former 166 acres farm house on Turf Valley where Andrew Dorsey was renting from Charles Carroll in 1843. There were burials on this parcel but has since been lost. The cemetery is not in our inventory and the Board needs to survey the area where it may be for further discussion.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40am.

Next Steps/Action Items:

- Ms. Burgess to contact Coalition to Protect MD Burial Sites about grant management.
- Ms. Burgess to provide CPAB packets to new members, past 3 meeting minutes and maps.
- Mr. Zinner to work on Outreach proposal and possible partners.
- Mr. Glawe to work with Mr. Larney on John Day Burial grounds.
- Mr. Dorsey to meet with Mr. Weinstein concerning HOA's.
- Ms. Moore to follow up about Mt. Gregory United Methodist Church.
- All bring suggestions for Hands on History give away or demonstrations or means to attract people
- All consider roll in 2017 outreach.

Upcoming meetings

- Tuesday, July 12, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building
- Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building
- Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 10am in George Howard building